

# Communication Matters

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## **JOB DEVELOPMENT VIDEO ONLINE "Great Hires"**

A new employer to employer video is available for **free** on the web. This is a video produced in Washington State by King County DD, King 5 TV, and WISE. DVDs are available for a shipping and handling fee or see the video on the web:

**[www.theinitiative.ws](http://www.theinitiative.ws)**

## **Vocational Testing with Deaf Adults**

- Julie Eckhardt

Most tests that are standardized on people with normal hearing have not been researched for use with people who are pre-lingually deaf, and therefore cannot be assumed to be valid with this population. Pre-lingually deafened people (loss of hearing prior to language acquisition) may use American Sign Language (ASL) as their primary language and may have a limited English vocabulary. Many deaf adults read at or below the 4th grade level, making written instructions for test items problematic. Some standardized tests employ a script for verbal instructions. This script cannot be followed precisely using ASL (meaning can be retained, but not actual wording), and an interpreter interjects a further compromise to the validity and reliability. Therefore, counselors need to consider alternative vocational testing methods for deaf individuals, especially for those with limited language skills or multiple disabilities. This article will provide information on tests and/or resources which may be considered for the assessment of deaf individuals.

### **"Guidelines for the Psychological & Vocational Assessment of Persons who are Deaf" by Douglas Watson, Ph.D.**

For background information and an overview of many of the current vocational testing methods and applicability to deaf consumers, see the document and related Power Point presentation on E-Learn, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Resource. The Power Point is also available at: **<http://www.rcep7.org/~conarch/deafness/deaf%2006.html>**

### **Career Cruising**

This computer based system (web or CD) is used at Michigan School for the Deaf. It is billed as "an interactive career resource designed for people of all ages." Learn more at: **<http://www.careercruising.com/>**

### **Picture Your Career Cluster Interest Survey**

This computerized picture interest survey uses National Career Clusters in an easy to use "point and click" format. It is designed for high school students and adults. **<http://www.pathway-pals.com/>**

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Information or news related to Deaf or Hard of Hearing services may be forwarded to Julie Eckhardt at [jewel@chartermi.net](mailto:jewel@chartermi.net). Views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily the views of Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth-Rehabilitation Services. Communication Matters is available on the web at [www.michigan.gov/mrs](http://www.michigan.gov/mrs) and on the E-Learn Deaf & Hard of Hearing Resource Center.



## Transitional Housing Program: Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services

The Transitional Housing Program (THP) in Seattle for Deaf and hard of hearing women has six apartments available. If you know someone who needs a safe place to live, please contact Sheli as below. To apply for THP, a woman must be with one or more children (can be pregnant), homeless or soon-to-be homeless, and have low income. **Funding for travel to Seattle is available.** Sheli will schedule a video phone conference to answer your questions.

Sheli Barbar  
[Sheli@ADWAS.org](mailto:Sheli@ADWAS.org)  
<http://www.adwas.org/>

## MADHH Hearing Aid Loaner Program

The Hearing Aid Loaner Program provides hearing aids for Michigan children 18 years and under. Michigan Association for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MADHH), recognizes the importance of amplification in hearing rehabilitation.

MADHH works with the hearing health care provider to select and fit loaner behind-the-ear hearing aids for use up to 90 days. There are no income requirements for this program. For more information contact MADHH:

Phone: 800-YOUR-EAR V/TTY  
Videophone: 517 487-0202 or [madhh.zapto.org](mailto:madhh.zapto.org)  
[www.madhh.org](http://www.madhh.org)  
[yourear@madhh.org](mailto:yourear@madhh.org)

## Vocational Testing

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[career/CareerInterestSurveyHS.html](http://career/CareerInterestSurveyHS.html)

### Reading Free Vocational Interest Inventory II

<http://www3.parinc.com/products/product.aspx?Productid=R-FVII2>

According to the web site: "The newly revised R-FVII:2 uses pictures of individuals engaged in different occupations to measure the vocational likes and dislikes of students and adults who are mentally retarded, learning disabled, disadvantaged, or enrolled in alternative or vocational/career training programs (ages 13 years and older). It does not require reading comprehension or written language skills."

### Northern Illinois University

#### Program for the Hearing Impaired

The Program for Hearing Impaired (PHI) is a multi-faceted program which assists young adults who are deaf or hard of hearing to assess and select viable options for the future.

PHI offers a Summer Evaluation Program and a Fall/Spring Program. The Summer Evaluation Program serves as a comprehensive diagnostic session to assist the individual and referring agency in assessing the individual's present level of functioning for the purpose of planning future vocational, academic and personal goals.

The Fall/Spring Program offers Vocational and

Academic programming. The PHI Program serves a broad spectrum of young adults who are deaf or hard of hearing, and provides services that are most congruent with the individual's evaluated abilities (as assessed during the Summer Evaluation Program), the individual's expressed future goals and in agreement with the referring agency. Learn more at: <http://www.chhs.niu.edu/comd/phi/>

### NTID Explore Your Future

Explore Your Future (EYF) is offered at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, New York each summer. This one week program is for high school sophomores. Students live on campus and get a feel for college life, while participating in a variety of assessments and experiences. A report is forwarded to the vocational rehabilitation counselor upon completion of the program. Learn more at: <http://www.ntid.rit.edu/prospective/eyf.php>

### Share Your Experience

If you have experience with an assessment method that may be helpful for others to know about, please contact Julie Eckhardt for inclusion in a future Communication Matters. [jewel@chartermi.net](mailto:jewel@chartermi.net)





# AUDIENT Alliance Collaborates with VR for Hearing Aids

The AUDIENT Alliance is a nationwide program launched by Northwest Lions Foundation for Sight & Hearing with the mission to facilitate access to quality hearing care for low income families at significantly reduced costs. This is made possible through the dedicated partnership of professional hearing care providers and hearing aid suppliers.

Hearing aids provided through AUDIENT include entry level BTEs from Oticon, Phonak, and Siemens, which are considered appropriate for individuals with moderate to moderate-severe hearing loss. AUDIENT is working on extending options and will announce updates as they occur.

In order to help hearing aid candidates re-enter the workforce more quickly, AUDIENT and alliance partners have begun collaborating with various Vocational Rehabilitation programs in Washington State, Oregon and Wisconsin. Guidelines for collaboration with VR programs are outlined below.

Please feel free to contact Sharon Kerpel at [sharonk@audientalliance.org](mailto:sharonk@audientalliance.org) with any questions you may have.

## AUDIENT/VR Collaboration Guidelines

(1) Vocational Rehabilitation counselors work with clients to submit AUDIENT applications and proof of income. (see chart below)

(2) AUDIENT will refer income qualified participant to an AUDIENT Hearing Care Provider in their area who has agreed to collaborate both with AUDIENT and with Vocational Rehabilitation.

(3) Vocational Rehabilitation covers the cost of the hearing test for the client directly with the AUDIENT Hearing Care Provider.

(4) The AUDIENT Hearing Care Provider notifies AUDIENT regarding hearing aid recommendation.

(5) AUDIENT notifies Vocational Rehabilitation of costs and Vocational Rehabilitation sends an authorization to AUDIENT.

(6) AUDIENT authorizes the AUDIENT Hearing Care

Provider to order hearing aids and ear molds through AUDIENT accounts and have them shipped to the AUDIENT Hearing Care Provider's address.

(7) AUDIENT Hearing Care Provider fit the participant with the hearing aids. At the end of the trial period, clients will sign the remission agreement stating that they have accepted the hearing aids and will complete the Outcome Measures Survey. AUDIENT Hearing Care Provider will send sign-off and survey to AUDIENT.

(8) AUDIENT will invoice Vocational Rehabilitation.

Please note that the AUDIENT fees\* for hearing aids and services\*\* are the following:

\$760 for a monaural fitting with a 1 year manufacturer's limited warranty

\$900 for a monaural fitting with a 2 year manufacturer's limited warranty

\$1290 for a binaural fitting with a 1 year manufacturer's limited warranty

\$1500 for a binaural fitting with a 2 year manufacturer's limited warranty

\*These fees are subject to change as the program grows and as new hearing aids are added to the program.

\*\* AUDIENT fees cover the following: hearing aid(s), ear mold(s), a fitting, three adjustments and a limited manufacturer's warranty. The AUDIENT hearing care provider may charge additional fees for other follow up services and/or replacements and repairs.

AUDIENT maximum income qualifications are based on the number of family members: 1 person-\$24,500; 2 people-\$33,000; 3 people-\$41,500. For each additional person, add: \$8,500.

To learn more about AUDIENT:

[www.audientalliance.org](http://www.audientalliance.org).

Phone: 1-877-AUDIENT (283-4368)

E-mail: [info@audientalliance.org](mailto:info@audientalliance.org)